

Archaeology Wales

Specification for:

**Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, Geophysics and
Evaluation on land at Feidr Eglwys, Newport,
Pembrokeshire**

**Prepared for:
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Project No: 1055

Date: 31st March 2011

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NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This specification details the proposal for an archaeological desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and evaluation on the site of proposed development at Feidr Eglwys, Newport, Pembrokeshire. The site lies on the eastern side of the medieval town of Newport 200m ENE of the Castle and 120m east of St Mary's Church. Newport is situated on the north Pembrokeshire Coast, on Newport Bay and within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. The proposed development involves the construction of housing and is to be subject to a pre-determination archaeological desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and intrusive field evaluation to assess its archaeological potential. This follows on from small scale geophysical survey carried out by Cambrian Archaeological Projects in 2010.

1. Introduction

The proposed development is located on the eastern side of the town of Newport, Pembrokeshire. It lies 200m to the ENE of the Castle and 120m to the east of St Mary's Church, between Goat Street, Feidr Bentick and Feidr Eglwys. The site covers approximately 4.5 acres and is currently under pasture (fig. 1). On the northern edge of the site, houses fronting Goat Street have gardens which resemble truncated burgage plots.

Charles Hill of Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Heritage Management (DAT-HM), in his capacity as archaeological adviser to the local authority, has recommended that an archaeological desk-based assessment (stage 1), geophysical survey (stage 2) and evaluation (stage 3) are undertaken prior to consideration of the planning application.

This specification has been prepared by Dr Amelia Pannett (MIfA), Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of WT Harries. It provides information on the methodology that will be employed by AW during the different stages of archaeological work on the site.

The purpose of the archaeological work is to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information regarding the nature of the archaeological resource on the site of the proposed development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy WALES 2010. The work will use documentary and cartographic research, geophysical survey and strategically placed trial trenches to investigate the possibility of archaeological remains surviving on the site, remains that may be disturbed during the development process.

All work will conform to the IfA's *Standards and Guidance* for archaeological desk-based assessments, geophysical survey and evaluation, and be undertaken by suitably qualified staff to the highest professional standards.

2 Site description

The proposed development area lies on the eastern side of the medieval town of Newport, close to both the Castle and St Mary's Church. Newport was founded in the twelfth century by William FitzMartin and developed into a thriving medieval sea port through which exports of Welsh wool were transported to the continent. The modern town still largely conforms to the medieval street layout, with burgage

plots preserved in hedgelines and garden boundaries.

Newport also lies at the foot of Carn Ingli, a craggy hill surmounted by an Iron Age hillfort. Bronze Age hut circles, a Neolithic cairn and several other sites of archaeological significance lie on Carn Ingli, within 1km of the proposed development site.

The site lies on gently sloping north-facing ground, 1.5km NW of the coast.

3 Site specific objectives

The primary objectives of the work will be to determine the archaeological potential of the site through a full desk-based assessment, a geophysical survey and a programme of intrusive archaeological evaluation trenching. The work will elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance.

The work will include a comprehensive assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within national and regional research frameworks.

The work will result in a report that will provide information of sufficient detail to allow informed planning decisions to be made which can safeguard the archaeological resource. Preservation *in situ* will be advocated where at all possible, but where engineering or other factors result in loss of archaeological deposits, preservation by record will be recommended.

4 The proposed archaeological work

The proposed archaeological work relates to the whole of the site, i.e. all of the proposed development area.

The aim of the work will be to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site. The work will include the following elements:

- A full desk-based assessment (Stage 1)
- A geophysical survey (in the area not covered by the 2010 survey; Stage 2)
- A programme of evaluation trenching (Stage 3)
- The production of an illustrated report and the deposition of the site archive (Stage 4)

This specification sets out the detailed methodology for the desk-based assessment (Stage 1) but only a generic methodology for the geophysical survey (stage 2) and evaluation (stage 3), as the precise methodology for these later stages will only be determined once stage 1 is complete.

5 Method statement for an Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (Stage 1)

Research design

The aim of the desk-based assessment will be to compile a comprehensive history of the proposed development site and assess its potential for containing significant archaeological remains. Through the examination of documentary and cartographic

sources, the use of the site will be reconstructed and its place within the medieval town of Newport investigated.

The site lies within a landscape that contains extensive evidence for prehistoric activity and occupation. Consequently, the research will investigate the possibility of pre-medieval archaeology surviving on the site.

The desk-based assessment will place the site within its local and regional context, and assess its potential significance.

Methodology

The following sources will be consulted during the desk-based assessment:

- Pembrokeshire HER (held at DAT)
- All records, maps and aerial photographs held by the RCAHMMW
- Maps held by the NLW (Aberystwyth) and Pembrokeshire Local Studies Library (Haverfordwest)
- Secondary Sources held by NLW (Aberystwyth) and Pembrokeshire Local Studies Library (Haverfordwest)
- Online sources – British History Online; Welsh Journals Online; Gathering the Jewels

6 Method Statement for Geophysical Survey (Stage 2)

The on-site survey will be undertaken in a single phase lasting one day. It will cover the northern area of the site, not included in the previous geophysical survey.

The survey will be carried out using a pair of Geoscan Research FM256 Fluxgate Gradiometers zeroed and balanced at an appropriate zero point to a resolution of 0.1nT. The survey area will be divided into 20m square grids along a common alignment.

Within each grid, parallel traverses 1m apart will be walked at rapid pace in zigzag style. All grids will be walked along the same orientation. Instrument readings will be logged at 0.25m intervals, with an average cycle of 4 using an ST1 internal sample trigger. Incomplete survey lines due to area boundaries or obstacles will be completed using the “dummy log” key.

Further survey information will be completed on the relevant pro-forma sheet. All data will be downloaded in the field into a laptop computer. The location of the grid corners will be recorded using a total station so that results can be accurately placed onto an OS map.

A composite of each detailed survey area will be created and processed using the software package Geoplot V.3. A variety of processing tools will be used to enhance any potential archaeology. The final results will be presented at an appropriate scale tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

6 Reporting for Stages 1 and 2

A report will be compiled presenting the results of both the desk-based assessment and the geophysical survey. The geophysical survey report will include a reworked version of the 2010 CAP report together with the results of the new survey.

The report will assess the potential of the archaeological resource on the site and

highlight areas of particular interest.

7 Method Statement for Evaluation (Stage 3)

Preliminary work

The archaeological project manager in charge of the work will satisfy herself that all constraints to ground works have been identified, including the siting of live services, Tree Preservation Orders and public footpaths.

The areas to be evaluated and the number and size of the trenches will be decided in consultation with DAT-HM based on the results of the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey. The agreed evaluation areas will be positioned to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information and to ensure that the archaeological resource is understood.

Evaluation

The evaluation areas will initially be excavated to the top of the archaeological horizon by machine. All mechanical excavation will be undertaken using a toothless bucket. All areas will be hand cleaned using hoes and/or pointing trowels to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and to determine their significance. In each area the excavation of the minimum number of archaeological features will be undertaken, to elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of the archaeological remains. In each area sufficient excavation will be undertaken to ensure that the natural horizons are reached and proven. If safety reasons preclude manual excavation to natural, hand augering may be used to try to assess the total depth of stratification within each area. The depth of the excavation must conform to current safety requirements. If excavation is required below 1.2m the options of using shoring or stepped trenching will be discussed with DAT-HM.

Recording will be carried out using Archaeology Wales recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc), using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Written, drawn and photographic records of an appropriate level of detail will be maintained throughout the course of the project. Digital photographs will be taken using cameras with resolutions of 5 mega pixels or above.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required, and these will be related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

Monitoring

DAT-HM will be contacted approximately two weeks prior to the commencement of ground works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

DAT-HM will be provided with notice of the start date, a projected timetable and a copy of the Health and Safety Risk Assessment 5 working days prior to the commencement of the work.

Any changes to the specification that the contractor may wish to make after approval will be communicated to DAT-HM for approval on behalf of the Planning Authority.

Representatives of DAT-HM will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the field evaluation. DAT-HM will be kept regularly informed about

developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

Artefacts

Archaeological artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be cleaned and labelled using an accession number which will be obtained from the local museum. A single number sequence will be allocated to all finds. The artefacts will be stored appropriately until they are deposited with the museum.

All artefacts recovered during the project will be retained and related to the contexts from which they were derived. All typologically distinct and closely datable finds will be recorded three-dimensionally.

The evaluation will carefully consider any artefactual or economic information and provide an assessment of the viability, for further study, of such information. It will be particularly important to provide an indication of the relative significance of such material for any subsequent decision-making process regarding mitigation strategies.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (Phil Parkes of Cardiff Conservation Services).

A catalogue by context of all artefactual material found, quantified by number, weight, or both, and containing sketches of significant artefacts will be compiled.

Pottery will be analysed to the standards outlined in "Guidelines for the Preparation of Pottery Archives" as prepared by the Study Group for Roman Pottery in consultation with the IFA. All other material will be analysed following the advice given in the Institute of Field Archaeologists: Guidelines for Finds Work.

The requirements for the conservation of artefacts will be unpredictable until after the completion of the fieldwork. The archaeological contractor will ensure, however, that at least minimum acceptable standards are achieved (the UK Institute of Conservation's Guidelines for the Treatment of Finds from Archaeological Site should be used as guidance).

Environmental and technological samples

Samples will be taken where necessary when significant deposits are located. These will be retained for processing. The level of post-excavation processing will be dependent on the results of the field evaluation and following discussion with an environmental specialist and DAT-HM.

Any features containing deposits of environmental or technological significance will be sampled. If required, the project manager should arrange, through a suitably qualified expert the assessment of the environmental potential of the site through examination of suitable deposits. The assessment of potential should consider the guidelines set out in the English Heritage publication 'Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology' March 2002.

The requirements for the conservation of samples will be unpredictable until after the completion of the fieldwork. The archaeological contractor will ensure, however, that at least minimum acceptable standards are achieved (the UK Institute of Conservation's Guidelines for the Treatment of Finds from Archaeological Site should be used as guidance).

Human remains

Human remains will be left in situ, covered and protected when discovered. No further investigation should normally be permitted and DAT-HM and the local Coroner must be informed immediately. After discussion, it may be appropriate to take bone samples for C14 dating. If removal is essential it can only take place under the appropriate Ministry of Justice and Environmental Health regulations.

6 Method statement for the production of an illustrated report and the deposition of the site archive (Stage 4)

Report preparation

The report will contain the following:

- A fully representative description of the information gained from Stages 1, 2 and 3 above, even if there should be negative evidence.
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
- At least one plan showing the site's location in respect to the local topography, as well as the position of all excavated areas.
- Suitably selected plans and sections of significant archaeological features. All plans and sections should be related to Ordnance Datum.
- Written descriptions of all features and deposits excavated and their considered interpretation.
- A summary report on the artefactual and ecofactual assemblage and an assessment of its potential for further study, prepared by suitably qualified individuals or specialists.
- A statement of the local and regional context of the archaeological remains identified.
- An impact assessment, with mitigation proposals, of the proposed development on the archaeological resource can be considered and presented for consideration. This could include the mapped archaeological potential of the site in relation to the proposed development.

Copies of the report will be sent to Mr W. Harries (Harries Design and Management), Charles Hill (DAT-HM) and to DAT for inclusion in the HER. Digital copies will be provided in pdf format if required.

A summary report of the work will be submitted for publication to a national journal (eg Archaeology in Wales) no later than one year after the completion of the work.

The site archive

A project archive will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and be deposited within an appropriate local museum on completion of site analysis and report production. It will also conform to the guidelines set out in 'Management of Archaeological Projects Two, Appendix 3' (English Heritage 1991).

Arrangements will be made with the local museum before work starts. Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, the report and the archive will be deposited not later than six months after completion of the work.

Other significant digital data generated by the survey (ie AP plots, EDM surveys, CAD drawings, GIS maps, etc) will be presented as part of the report on a CD/DVD. The format of this presented data will be agreed with the curator in advance of its preparation.

7 Resources and timetable

Standards

All stages of the project will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice.

AW is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation and all work will be undertaken to the standards and guidelines of the IFA.

Staff

The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified AW staff. Overall management of the project will be undertaken by Amelia Pannett (a CV is available upon request).

Equipment

The project will use existing Archaeology Wales equipment.

Timetable of archaeological works

A start date has yet to be agreed. Timescales and staff are as follows:

- Desk-based assessment (Stage 1) – 3 days research (Amelia Pannett)
- Geophysical Survey (Stage 2) – 1 day (Chris Smith + 1)
- Reporting for stages 1 and 2 – 1.5 days (Amelia Pannett and Chris Smith)
- Evaluation (Stage 3) – 2 weeks (Amelia Pannett + 2 others – exact staffing requirements to be decided once evaluation methodology has been agreed)
- Reporting and archiving (stage 4) – 1 week (Amelia Pannett)

Insurance

Archaeology Wales is an affiliated member of the CBA, and holds Insurance through the CBA insurance service.

Health and safety

All members of staff will adhere to the requirements of the *Health & Safety at Work Act*, 1974, and the Health and Safety Policy Statement of Cambrian Archaeological Projects.

If AW has sole possession of the site, then AW will produce a detailed Risk Assessment for approval by the client before any work is undertaken. If another organisation has responsibility for site safety, then AW employees will be briefed on the contents of all existing Risk Assessments, and all other health and safety requirements that may be in place.

